This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (original) A device for feedback compensation in hearing devices, comprising:

5   a signal input device configured to acquire an input signal that is influenced by a feedback;

a feedback reduction device for adjustable reduction, compensation, or damping of the feedback, and

a signal output device configured to output an output signal with a reduced
10   feedback portion; and

an estimation unit that is connected between the signal input device and the feedback reduction device, and with which an estimated value of a system distance that is defined by a distance of loop gain of the feedback system to its predetermined stability limit can be
15   determined from the input signal, such that parameters of the feedback reduction device are controllable using the estimated value.

20 2. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the estimation device is configured to detect a first signal portion and a second signal portion from the input signal, to generate an estimated signal <u>from the first signal portion</u> for the second signal portion utilizing a model ~~from the first signal portion~~, and to determine an estimated value from a difference of the estimated signal and the second signal portion.

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3. (original) The device according to claim 2, wherein the first signal portion corresponds to a high-frequency portion of the input signal, and the second signal portion corresponds to a low-frequency portion of the input signal.

4. (original) The device according to claim 2, wherein the estimation device comprises a feature extractor configured to extract features from the first and second signal portions for further processing.

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5. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the feedback reduction device comprises a feedback compensator.

6. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the feedback reduction
10   device comprises an amplification/compression control.

7. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the feedback reduction device comprises at least one oscillation detector and at least one narrow-band filter device to suppress oscillations based on the estimated value.

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8. (original) A method for feedback compensation in a hearing device, comprising:

   acquiring an input signal that is influenced by a feedback signal;

   adjustably reducing, compensating, or damping the feedback signal; and

20   outputting an output signal with a reduced feedback portion;

   estimating a system distance that is defined by a distance of loop gain of
         the feedback system to its predetermined stability limit and
         producing an estimated value; and

   controlling the reduction, compensation, or damping of the feedback signal
25   using the estimated value.

3   AMENDMENT A

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the estimating of a system distance comprises:

> detecting a first signal portion and a second signal portion of the input signal;

5 forming a predictive signal <u>from the first signal portion</u> for the second signal portion ~~from the first signal portion~~ utilizing a model; and

> determining the estimated value from a difference of the predictive signal and second signal portion.

10 10. (original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the first signal portion corresponds to a high-frequency portion of the input signal, and the second signal portion corresponds to a low-frequency portion of the input signal.

11. (original) The method according to claim 9, further comprising extracting, after 15 the detection of the first and second signal portion, signal features for further processing from the signal portions.

12. (original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the reduction or damping of the feedback signal ensues via adaptive feedback compensation.

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13. (original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the reduction or damping of the feedback signal ensues via controlling at least one of an amplification and compression.

25 14. (original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the reduction or damping of the feedback signal ensues via detecting an oscillation and narrow-band filtering-out of this oscillation.

AMENDMENT A